

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01886 121612Z

73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /079 W

----- 052169

R 121456Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0041

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR

SUBJECT: LEFTIST JORNALISTS ON USSR-GOE RELATIONS

1. DURING PAST MONTH, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY TWO LEFTISH JOURNALISTS WHO VISITED MOSCOW IN JANUARY. THEY ARE THE WELL-KNOWN MARXISTS LUTFI AL-KHULI, WHO IS AHRAM STAFFER AND CHIEF EDITOR OF MONTHLY PRO-SOVIET ORGAN AL-TALI'S, AND ABD AL-SATTAR AL-TAWILA OF ROSE AL-YUSUF AND SABAH AL-KHAYR. BOTH HAVE LONG-TIME CONNECTIONS WITH CPSU AND EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS MOVEMENT.
2. IN SUMMARY, ARTICLES MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:
 - A. SOVIETS ARE CRITICAL OF EGYPTIAN MEDIA AND GOE ATTACKS.
 - B. SOVIETS DO NOT OPPOSE US-GOE FRIENDSHIP, BUT INSIST OLD FRIENDS SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED AND GOE-USSR RELATIONSHIP SHOULD SUPERSEDE AMERICAN CONNECTION.
 - C. SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED THAT ECONOMIC OPENED DOOR CONSTITUTES INVITATION TO AMERICAN CAPITALISM, WHICH WOULD WEAKEN ENTIRE ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT. (COMMENT: SOVIET DIPLOMATS HERE CONSTANTLY WARN THAT TINKERING WITH PUBLIC SECTOR REPRESENTS SERIOUS THREAT TO EGYPTIAN REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES AND PROSPERITY OF COUNTRY.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 01886 121612Z

D. USSR HAS DIFFICULTY WITH DEBT RESCHEDULING BECAUSE OF CROP FAILURES AND BECAUSE OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD EXPECT SIMILAR TREATMENT. ON FEBRUARY 11, AL-KHULI WROTE IN AHRAM THAT GOE AND USSR HAVE REACHED GENERAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH DEBTS CAN BE SETTLED TO MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH. THIS UNOFFICIAL FRAMEWORK, HE SAYS, MUST NOW BE MADE OFFICIAL.

E. USSR AND GOE HAVE IDENTICAL VIEWS ON ME SETTLEMENT, I.E., TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELIS BEHIND 1967 BORDERS, RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIANS' LEGITIMATE RIGHTS, AND GUARANTEEING SECURITY AND FREEDOM OF ALL PEOPLES OF AREA WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

F. AL-KJHHULI IN AHRAM CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE UNDER SUPERVISION OF GOE AND SOVIET POLITICAL COMMANDS, WHICH WOULD MEET PERIODICALLY TO DRAW UP AND IMPLEMENT "PLANS".

3. AL-TALI'S AND SABAH AL-KHAYR HAVE ALSO CARRIED FEATURES ON SOVIET LIVING CONDITIONS, WHICH ARE TAILORED TO APPEAL TO EGYPTIANS WHO ARE MORE AND MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN INCREASING COST OF LIVING PROBLEMS. PERIODICALS ALLEGE IT IS EASY TO FIND FLAT IN USSR, TRANSPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT ARE CHEAP, AND RENTS CONSTITUTE FIVE PERCENT OF INCOME AND HAVE NOT RISEN SINCE 1926.

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD SEEM THAT AL-KHULI AND AL-TAWILA HAVE SOME KIND OF LICENSE TO HUNT IN THIS TRICKY AREA, A LICENSE WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY SADAT PERSONALLY. TONE OF ARTICLES IS CONSIDERABLY MORE MUTED THAN TONE OF AL-KHULI'S PRIVATE CONVERSATION AND APPEARS TO REPRESENT GUIDELINES FROM GOE WITHIN WHICH HE HAS AGREED TO WRITE. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, FOLLOWING SADAT'S SEPTEMBER SPEECHES BITTERLY ATTACKING SOVIETS, PRESIDENT WAS APPARENTLY PREVAILED UPON BY HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORS TO CURTAIL HIS PUBLIC ONE-SIDED PRO-AMERICAN STANCE AND TO ENCOURAGE NORMALIZATION, AT LEAST ON PUBLIC LEVEL, OF GOE-USSR RELATIONS.

5. SINCE OTHER MARXIST WRITERS AT AHRAM HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO WRITE SIMILAR ARTICLES (MUHAMMAD SID AHMAD IS PROMINENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 01886 121612Z

EXAMPLE), THERE IS SOME LOCAL SPECULATION THAT AL-KHULI IN PARTICULAR HAS TRADE PERMISSION TO PUBLISH FOR PROMISE HE WILL NOT GO TOO FAR. EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EXTREMISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO01886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760054-0776
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760257/aaaabxgz.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFTIST JORNALISTS ON USSR-GOE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, (AL-KHULI, LUFTI), (AL-TAWILA, AL-SATTAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006